

Sakura no Seibo High School English Department Newsletter

Editor: Marijke Gerretsen

ESTA REPORT

My Experience In Canada



My Canadian Experience

We went to Canada for 16 days. That was my first time to go to Canada so I learned a lot, and many things surprised me while I was there. I learned a lot from my host family. They taught me how they spend Halloween, Christmas and many other things. I found that Canadians eat their supper very early. My host family ate their supper between five o'clock and six o'clock. But I got used to eating with my host families at such an early hour. Spending Halloween in Canada was very fun. Children wore different costumes, students went to school and wore make up and scared their other classmates, and the adults cooked many different kinds of delicious food. I wish I could be there every Halloween!!"

Ai Nagasawa 2-1

Life in Canada



After one night in Montreal, we went to Kingston, and met our host families. To start with, I was full of anxiety and expectation. But when I saw the people who were waiting for me, I relaxed. They were so kind and gentle. My family was my father, mother, two sisters and a cat. One sister was the

same age as me. Almost all everyday we went to Holy Cross High School. My buddy's name was Marni. She looked very cool, but she was very kind. To start with I was nervous because I was wondering whether I could get through a conversation. However, she spoke slowly enough for me to follow. I took part in the lessons with her. I participated in accounting, science, drama, and math. They were a little difficult, but it was a wonderful experience.

Eri Kawahara 2-1



The 2 weeks of this school trip in Canada seemed to be long, but now when I look back at it, the time really flashed by quickly and I think it was very short. I wish I could have stayed in Canada longer. When I walked on the streets in Canada for the first time, I thought it was a very beautiful place. We could see classically designed buildings, cathedrals, and maple trees planted along



the street, and so on. However, I think the best experience for me in Canada was home-stay. I was anxious before I arrived at my the home-stay house. But my home-stay family warmly welcomed me. We went shopping, did origami, watched Japanese movies and made curry and sushi with my host family. And on Halloween, we carved a pumpkin and put it outside the front door, and gave candy to children who came trick-or-treating. Then I talked with my host family about a lot of things; about myself, my family, Japan, my house, TV, and many other things. They tried their best to understand what I wanted to say. Everyday was full of first experiences for me, and whenever I taught my host family about Japan and myself, I also learned about my country and myself as well.

Ayano Endo 2-1

My Most Unforgettable Place

When I went to Canada, I thought everything, the food, the customs and everything about the daily lifestyle was different to Japan. I had various experiences during my trip. First, when we arrived in



Montreal, at Pierre Trudeau Airport, most of our bags hadn't reached there, so most of us had to wear the same clothes the next day. At the time, I thought that it was the worst thing that could have happened, but that is a good memory now. While I stayed in Canada, I went to many places with my classmates. My most unforgettable place was Niagara Falls. The weather was bad, but Niagara Falls was magnificent. It was big and wonderful, and so I was moved. After that, we had lunch at a rotating observatory. It was a lot of fun and the food was delicious.

Tomomi Hishinuma 2-1

Seibo English Department Exchange News



Yoko, Manami and Ruri

Returning from Canada

To be honest, I left for Canada filled with fear and anxiety. At first there were so many things that I needed to get used to. Everyday I learned new things, met new people and everything

started to brighten and I really enjoyed life in Canada. Studying in a Canadian school gave me inspiration and broadened my world. I got to know many people in school, and I found out that each one of them has their own identity. Thanks to them, I can say that my year in Canada was very productive and a great experience for me. I learned that I need to be open. I also think that we need to be ourselves and express our own opinions. I'd like to learn English more and more, and hopefully in the future find work using my English and help to bring people from different countries together. In the end I want to say how much I appreciated everyone who encouraged me and supported me and taught me so much more than just English. Thank you!

Ruri Iida 3-1

If you live in another place for a year, I think you will feel that it is your second home. That's what happened to me. I'd been to Canada to learn English for a year, and came back this summer. Then in October, I went back to Canada with my classmates for our ESTA program. As for me, Canada is like my second home, so I felt a bit strange when I went back to Canada. However, it was so nice to see my Canadian friends and my host family again. They were so warm and kind to me. The one thing that I wanted to tell my Japanese friends about Canadians was that they were very kind and friendly. Therefore, I was glad that my classmates felt their kindness and friendliness during our trip. Moreover, I could learn new things about Canada that I didn't know when I was in school last year. The places which I visited for the first time impressed me a lot. I felt sad to come back to Japan because I love Canada and two

weeks was not enough for me. I will go back to my second home, Canada someday!

Yoko Inada 2-1

This was the first time for me to go out of Japan. Before going to Canada I didn't express myself too much. Maybe I was too obstinate to say what I was really thinking. "To be polite, not to be selfish." This is what I had been told since I was little. So I was like that in Canada too. But the Canadian people said that I was too shy even though I didn't mean to be that way. Then the question came to me, "What do I really want to be like"? I never had time to think about this because my time was always for giving and I never questioned why I didn't think about myself until my Canadian friend asked me, "Why are you so giving?" "Because I want to see other people smile." I found what I really wanted to do was to make people happy. I knew that I couldn't live just to be kind. From listening to my friend's advice I gained skills to communicate with others. It was a great experience and I had time to think about my life in a way I never had before. Being in Canada taught me a lot about myself.

Manami Ogata 3-1

Seibo Students in Canada

Kanako Uesugi 2-1

Sayaka Suzuki 1-1



Dear Everyone,

Hello. How are you? I was so glad to see my classmate from home. Now that everybody is gone, I feel a little lonely. But, I'm enjoying my life everyday. I'm living with a wonderful home-stay family and I have met lots of new friends at school. I'm enjoying learning about a new country and a new culture. By the way, Christmas is coming. I'm so excited about that. I will spend this Christmas with my home-stay family. It will be a very good time.

Love to everyonefrom Kanako Uesugi



Interview with Minerva

Minerva is an exchange student in 2-1 this year. She arrived from Mexico in August.

What was your first impression of Japan?

I was surprised at the large number of people everywhere. Also, everything seemed so organized. Everything is so different from back home in Mexico.

What is the biggest difference between Japanese schools and Mexican schools?

Students spend so much time at school. The students are here for so long everyday. It is also feels strange for me to be at a school where there are only girls. Also, in the

classroom, Japanese students don't like to participate in class. In Mexico, everyone is always asking questions and trying to learn more.

What part of your lifestyle in Japan is difficult?

Young people. Japanese students have very close friends. It is very difficult to mix sometimes. Some people are very friendly though, and try to understand you and help you.

What do you miss about home the most?

Of course I miss my family and friends. But I also miss Mexican food and my school. I miss going out more. In Mexico, I used to go out all the time, but now I don't have that chance so often.

What is your goal while you are in Japan?

I want to learn Japanese and about Japanese culture. I also want to make many Japanese friends and introduce Mexico to them.